

## **Open Comment Excerpts from D7 Board of Education Minutes**

Found at [www.op97.org/boe](http://www.op97.org/boe)

### **March 24, 2009**

#### Public Comment

Jennifer Nelson - Oak Park, and a Brooks teacher, addressed the board regarding parent input into the Teacher Evaluation Tool. She expressed concern that without training and experience, parents critiques are merely their own opinion. She requested that the district not make parent input into this tool a common practice.

Lynne Beauprez -- Oak Park, teacher, spoke to the board regarding parent input into the Teacher Evaluation Tool, encouraging the board to stand firmly against parents sharing input. She suggested that parents have a channel to voice their concerns through the satisfaction surveys, and that the principal spends time observing in the classrooms. After quoting the first paragraph of the tool, she pointed out areas within the tool where differentiation is apparent, even though the buzz word is never used.

Peggy Kell- Oak Park, Julian teacher and co-president of the OPTA and Sue Tresselt-LaGrange Park, Irving teacher and co-president of the OPTA, spoke to the board regarding parent input and the Teacher Evaluation Tool. They expressed their concern that members of the board think the process is flawed and that many teachers should be released. They reported on the teacher mentor program, sharing that this tool was put in place many years ago and is well received by the OPTA, and the newly hired staff. They shared that the OPTA is instrumental in assuring that the district keep good teachers. Concern was expressed that the evaluation process should be between the teachers and the administrators, not parents, and not school board members.

### **April 7, 2009**

Judy Yang-Murawski - Oak Park, and a Longfellow teacher shared that she is impressed with the caliber of teachers she works with. She spoke against parent input into the teacher evaluation process and asked that the board have confidence in the teachers.

Jennifer Nelson - Elk Grove Village, a teacher at Brooks Middle School, spoke against parent input in the teacher evaluations. She suggested that a break down in trust might occur if the board continues in this conversation.

Peggy Kell- Oak, and Sue Tresselt - La Grange, Co-Presidents of the Oak Park Teachers Association (OPTA), suggested that the Danielson model should be followed. They shared that teachers must communicate with parents to be successful. They questioned why a discussion on parent input into the evaluation process would ever take place. They referred to the Principles of Participatory Management, and to Dr. Collins' statement to move the district from good to great. They reported that the teachers are willing and able to be as successful as possible.

Donna Villa - Oak Park, spoke in support of parent input into the teacher evaluation tool. She shared that in the past parents were given a form to evaluate all teachers.

Board members response:

One member clarified that he has not questioned the teacher evaluation process as outlined in the contract, but more so, he is questioning how the district is executing the evaluation tool. He believes that formal parental input is a critical piece of forming a comprehensive evaluation. To be clear, he does not believe that the parents should write the evaluation, rather the parental input is just another piece of information for administration to consider during the evaluation process.

One board member's perspective was shared regarding parent input to teacher evaluations. This member felt that the discussions regarding parent input into teaching evaluations should have taken place during negotiations, as now they cannot be discussed in a healthy give and take. The member believes that consistent parent concerns are not given value as one of multiple sources of data that principals use when evaluating teachers, and does not understand why the teachers feel threatened as professionals.